

Grade 5 - Narrative

Finding a Suitable Job

Amy had watched her older brother, Adam, leave their family's house to deliver newspapers every afternoon. She had noticed how excited he was when he received a paycheck in the mail. Amy wanted a job to earn and save money.

Amy thought about delivering papers like Adam, but the newspaper was not hiring. Amy knew she needed to look in a variety of places to find a suitable job. She had glanced at local help-wanted ads, but she did not find a job for an eleven-year-old.

"You're eleven, what type of job do you want?" asked Amy's friend, Paul, when he came to visit.

"I am not sure, but I was hoping that you would help me think of ideas. We can sit on the front step where we always talk."

"What kind of skills do you have?" inquired Paul.

"I know how to bake, make lemonade, and pick up sticks and other rubbish from lawns," responded Amy.

Paul wrote down Amy's ideas as she spoke.

Amy looked at the list Paul had written and determined she would start a lemonade stand. It was summer, and the weather was hot; surely people would be thirsty. A lemonade stand was easy to set up. Amy received permission from her mom before beginning the new adventure.

Eager to start, Amy made the lemonade, set up the table, and created a poster noting the price of the lemonade. She sat down in a chair in the hot sun while she waited for thirsty customers. Although Amy did have a few customers, she did not enjoy sitting in the sun all afternoon. It was time to think of a new plan.

Her next idea was to help busy neighbors by picking up sticks and rubbish from their lawns. She knocked on each neighbor's door informing them of her services.

After returning home, Amy received a phone call from Ms. Calvin.

"I am hoping you will be able to pick up the sticks and debris on my lawn tomorrow," said Ms. Calvin.

Amy accepted the job and told Ms. Calvin she would be at her house promptly at nine o'clock the next morning.

Upon arriving the next morning on time, Amy asked, "What would you like me to do with the sticks and other things I collect?"

"Please bundle the sticks together in small piles and tie them with a rope so I can take them to be recycled. Any rubbish can be placed in a bag," said Ms. Calvin.

Amy wore thick gloves to pick up the items she found on the lawn. Ms. Calvin thanked Amy for helping and gave her money for completing the task. Amy was happy.

Two weeks later, Amy was perplexed about why Ms. Calvin had not asked her for help again. She decided to call Ms. Calvin to see if she would be needing help soon.

Ms. Calvin thanked Amy for the good job she had done earlier but informed her that her services would no longer be needed. Ms. Calvin explained that her niece, who was staying with her the rest of the summer, would help take care of the lawn.

Amy was disappointed that her second idea did not seem to be a success. She asked Paul if he could come over to her house to talk. Paul came over to Amy's house and sat on the front step with Amy.

"Hey, isn't that Lucky?" asked Paul pointing towards the street. Amy stared at her family's dog scurrying home covered in mud.

"Oh Lucky, you smell disgusting!" exclaimed Amy.

Amy knew Lucky did not always enjoy being washed, but she asked Paul to help lead the reluctant dog to the side of the house where the hose was kept.

Thirty minutes later, Lucky was clean and air-drying in the sun.

"You're a natural at this," said Paul.

Amy held her pointer finger in the air, her eyes bright. "I have an idea; I'm going to start a pet-care business!"

Once again, Amy informed her neighbors of her plan and gave each one her telephone number. It did not take very long for Amy to receive her first phone call, and after that she kept very busy.